
Briefing to Overview and Scrutiny Board

Date: 20 October 2020

Subject:

Council Motion – ‘Let’s All Do Our Bit to Tackle Litter’

For Discussion

Report of:

Lori Hughes, Constitutional Services Officer

Summary of the issue:

At the Council meeting on 9th September 2020, the ‘Let’s All Do Our Bit to Tackle Litter’ motion was debated.

The first resolution of the motion, as amended, was as follows:

- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to examine the merits of becoming a local authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network and identify which of the campaign’s initiatives, including Love Parks and Charity Bins could be introduced in the Borough.

Recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Board:

It is recommended that:

1. The information contained in the report be noted.
 2. The update as provided in the report be included in the next Council action update.
 3. An update be received when available from Environmental Services related to Charity Bins.
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1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that the Tackling Litter motion was agreed at Full Council on 9 September 2020. The full motion as amended is as follows:

“Council is committed to tackling litter in our Borough and to working for cleaner streets and public spaces across our communities.

Council notes that:

- The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign offers local authorities the opportunity to become a member of a Network, which provides access to specialist advice and support.
- Keep Britain Tidy is hosting the Great British September Clean-Up from 11 – 27 September.
- The campaign is also promoting a Love Parks campaign and a Charity Bin sponsorship scheme whereby the monies raised from recycling cans deposited in designated local authority bins is contributed to local charities.
- Several national supermarket chains are now operating trials of reverse vending machines, where customers are rewarded for returning used cans and bottles for recycling.
- The Government department DEFRA has also previously published a voluntary code for local businesses and local business partnerships to sign up to and reduce the litter that results from fast food businesses.

Council recognizes that:

- Whilst we are committed to tackling litter in our Borough, and to working for cleaner streets and public spaces across our communities, we cannot do this alone.
- In the battle for cleaner streets and public spaces, we must involve the public and our business partners in a co-operative effort while recognising the limitations in community and group activity imposed by the current Coronavirus restrictions.
- There are community champions and organisations commendably ‘doing their bit’.
- The Keep Britain Tidy and DEFRA initiatives provide extra opportunities and an extra incentive for members of the public and business partners to become actively engaged and empowered in tackling the litter which blights our streets.
- In doing their bit, residents and business will help the Council to make the streets, district centres, parks and public amenities of our Borough cleaner and more inviting to residents and visitors.”

Council resolved to:

- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to examine the merits of becoming a local authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network and identify which of the campaign’s initiatives, including Love Parks and Charity Bins could be introduced in the Borough.
 - Ask the Chief Executive to write to national supermarket chains with stores in this borough asking them to consider Oldham as the location for a future trial of a reverse vending machine.
 - Promote take up of the DEFRA voluntary code amongst our fast food businesses and local business partnerships and seek their sponsorship for the introduction of a Charity Bin scheme and for public education programmes.”
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2 **Current Position**

- 2.1 Constitutional Services has spoken to the Head of Environmental Services regarding the merits of the local authority becoming a member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network.
- 2.2 The Head of Environmental Services said that the local authority was already a member of the network and received information related to a variety of campaigns and initiatives from Keep Britain Tidy. The campaigns and initiatives were assessed individually to see if they were relevant to the Borough. There were some campaigns such as those related to keep beaches clean which were not applicable to Oldham.
- 2.3 Where the campaigns were seen as being relevant, they were supported and publicized such as the Love Parks Campaign which was featured during Love Parks Week from July 12 to 21st 2020.
- 2.4 The Great British September Clean was also supported all while social distancing. The Great British Spring Clean had to be postponed due to Coronavirus.
- 2.5 Environmental Services have given consideration to the Charity Bins proposal. At this stage it is unable to adopt. Further consideration will be given as part of a future replacement bin programme.

3 **Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss**

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny are asked to discuss the Council's involvement with the Keep Britain Tidy Network.

4 **Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider**

- 4.1 Does Overview and Scrutiny Board endorse the information as provided in the report and agreed to the information being supplied to Council?

5. **Links to Corporate Outcomes**

- 5.1 N/A

6 **Additional Supporting Information**

- 6.1 N/A

7 **Consultation**

- 7.1 N/A

8 **Appendices**

- 8.1 None
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